

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:PFCANNEY:CB

APPROVED BY EUR - MR. LOWENSTEIN

S/S: JPMOFFAT

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177733 TOSEC 080090

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, CSCE, FI

SUBJECT: FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER REQUEST FOR BILATERAL
WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER

REF: HELSINKI 1605

1. THERE FOLLOWS BILATERAL BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR MEETING
BETWEEN SECRETARY AND FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER OLAVI MATTILA
PROPOSED HELSINKI 1605:

PARTICIPANTS

US FINLAND

THE SECRETARY FOREIGN MINISTER OLAVI
COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT MATTILA
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN PHONETIC: MAHTILA
INTERPRETER ADDRESSED: MR. MINISTER

LANGUAGE: FINNISH/ENGLISH
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CHECKLIST:

-- CSCE. EXPRESS USG APPRECIATION TOMATTILA AND FINNISH
GOVERNMENT FOR HOSTING THE FIRST AND THIRD STAGES OF CSCE.

POINT OUT THAT STAGE III REPRESENTS AN AGENDA FOR FUTURE PROGRESS, AND THAT THE REAL WORK LIES AHEAD IN CARRYING OUT CSCE'S PROMISES.

-- BILATERAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM. EXPRESS US SATISFACTION THAT AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND FINLAND WAS POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE FOR FUNDING OF THE CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES BEYOND 1984.

-- SALT. RECALL THAT THE SALT PROCESS BEGAN IN HELSINKI AND NOTE THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TOWARD CONCLUSION OF A NEW AGREEMENT THIS YEAR.

-- MBFR. (IF RAISED) EXPRESS HOPE THAT THE CONCLUSION OF CSCE WILL STIMULATE PROGRESS IN MBFR AND THAT THE EAST WILL FOLLOW THROUGH ON ITS DECLARED INTENTION TO SUPPLEMENT POLITICAL DETENTE WITH DETENTE IN THE MILITARY FIELD

-- PORTUGAL. INDICATE US CONCERN OVER THE COURSE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND WELCOME FINNISH VIEWS ON WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO ASSIST DEMOCRATIC FORCES THERE.

-- ECONOMIC ISSUES. EXPRESS CONFIDENCE THAT THE US ECONOMY WILL RECOVER, AND POINT OUT THE NEED FOR OECD MEMBERS TO FIGHT INFLATION.

CSCE.

CSCE PROVIDED AN OCCASION FOR FINLAND TO TRANSLATE ITS POLICIES OF "ACTIVE NEUTRALITY" INTO ACTION BY SERVING AS HOST OF THE MULTILATERAL PREPARATORY TALKS, THE STAGE I MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS, AND THE STAGE III SUMMIT. THE FINNS INITIATED A KEY "NEUTRAL PACKAGE PLAN" EARLY IN THE CONFERENCE, WHICH RESULTED IN INCLUSION IN THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES OF REFERENCES DESIRED BY MOSCOW TO RESPECT FOR "NATIONAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS." CONFIDENTIAL

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AGREEMENT ON THIS PIVOTAL QUESTION OPENED THE WAY FOR SOVIET FLEXIBILITY ON BASKET 3 TEXTS DESIRED BY THE WEST. ON OTHER KEY ISSUES ALSO--FOLLOW-UP, FOR EXAMPLE--THE FINNS HELPED STEER THE CONFERENCE TOWARD REASONABLE COMMITMENTS. AT HELSINKI, PRESIDENT KEKKONEN CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE SCRUPULOUSLY TO RESPECT FINLAND'S ROLE AS A NEUTRAL HOST TO CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS.

SETTING.

YOU HAVE NOT MET FOREIGN MINISTER MATTILA PREVIOUSLY.

HIS PRINCIPAL INTEREST WILL LIE IN EMPHASIZING FINLAND'S ROLE AS A CONSTRUCTIVE AND ACTIVE NEUTRAL, A

BRIDGEBUILDER BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. HE WILL ALSO SEEK TO ASSURE YOU OF THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE FOR CONTINUED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE US, UNMARKED BY ANY SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL PROBLEMS.

OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO EXPRESS AMERICAN APPRECIATION FOR THE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FINLAND HAS MADE AS A PARTICIPANT IN ALL UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES, AS AN IMPORTANT VOICE IN UN DISARMAMENT DISCUSSIONS, AND AS A HOSPITABLE HOST GOVERNMENT FOR NUMEROUS EAST-WEST CONFERENCES SUCH AS SALT AND CSCE.

FINNISH-AMERICAN BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE EXCELLENT AND HAVE BEEN TRADITIONALLY. THROUGHOUT THE POST WW II PERIOD, WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY INDICATED OUR SUPPORT FOR FINNISH INDEPENDENCE AND RESPECT FOR FINNISH NEUTRALITY POLICY. AND WHILE WE HAVE USUALLY ENDORSED MOST FINNISH BRIDGEBUILDING INITIATIVES AS GENUINELY CONSTRUCTIVE, SOME, SUCH AS PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S PLAN FOR A NORDIC NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE, ARE NOT WELCOME. UNDER THIS QUOTE PLAN END QUOTE, WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY THE SOVIETS, THE FIVE NORDIC COUNTRIES WOULD AGREE TO RENOUNCE THE RIGHT TO HAVE DEPLOYED ANYWHERE WITHIN THEIR TERRITORIES ANY TYPE OF NUCLEAR WEAPON. THE FOUR NORDIC NEIGHBORS OF FINLAND HAVE REJECTED THE PROPOSAL AS INADEQUATE FOR THEIR SECURITY IN THAT IT IGNORES THE PRINCIPAL THREAT TO THE NORDIC REGION, I.E., THE SOVIET UNION'S KOLA PENINSULA NUCLEAR
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SUBMARINE AND MISSILE BASES.

THE STAGE III SUMMIT COMES AT A DIFFICULT PERIOD IN FINLAND'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 4 THAT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 21 AND 22, SIX MONTHS EARLIER THAN ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. THE FOUR-PARTY COALITION GOVERNMENT HEADED BY SOCIAL DEMOCRAT KALEVI SORSA RESIGNED ON JUNE 13, LARGELY BECAUSE OF ITS INABILITY TO ACHIEVE DISCERNIBLE PROGRESS IN OVERCOMING THE COUNTRY'S SERIOUS INFLATION AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS, AND WAS REPLACED BY AN "EXPERT" GOVERNMENT APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT. HEADED BY SOCIAL DEMOCRAT KEIJO LIINAMAA, THIS CARETAKER GOVERNMENT WILL BE THE HOST FOR CSCE AND WILL GOVERN UNTIL OCTOBER WHEN THE NEXT ELECTED GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE. NO CHANGE IN FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY IS EXPECTED, NOR ARE US INTERESTS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED AS THE RESULT OF THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT.

ISSUES/TALKING POINTS.

1. FINNISH WAR DEBT REPAYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES

SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II, AUTHORIZATION HAS EXISTED TO APPLY THE PROCEEDS OF THE ANNUAL FINNISH WW I DEBT REPAYMENTS TO AN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH FINLAND. THESE FUNDS HAVE BEEN USED FOR SUCH EXCHANGES AND THE AUTHORITY WAS SPECIFICALLY EMBODIED IN THE MUTUAL EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE ACT OF 1961 (THE FULBRIGHT-HAYS ACT). SINCE ITS ENACTMENT, MORE THAN 2,000 PERSONS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM.

UNDER THE PRESENT REPAYMENT SCHEDULE, THE LAST PAYMENT ON THE DEBT WOULD BE MADE IN 1984. IN ORDER TO AVOID A SUDDEN END TO OR A SHARP REDUCTION IN THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM, THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED THAT IT PAY THE REMAINING DEBT, WITH INTEREST, IN 1976 AND WITH OUR CONSENT ESTABLISH A TRUST FUND IN FINLAND, THE ANNUAL PROCEEDS OF WHICH WOULD BE DEVOTED TO EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES. SUCH A SCHEME WOULD PERMIT MAINTENANCE OF THE PROGRAM WITH FINLAND AT ABOUT THE PRESENT LEVEL.
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WE FAVOR THE PROPOSAL SINCE IT WOULD ENABLE US TO CONTINUE IN PERPETUITY A PROGRAM WHICH WE FEEL HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY VALUABLE IN MAINTAINING A CLOSE, CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH FINLAND. THE PROGRAM IS WELL KNOWN THERE AND HIGHLY REGARDED.

NO NEW LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY WOULD BE NEEDED TO ACCEPT THE FINNISH PROPOSAL.

TALKING POINTS.

-- FOR MANY YEARS, CORDIAL RELATIONS HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND FINLAND. ONE OF THE MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS HAS BEEN THE EXTENSIVE PROGRAM OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS FUNDED LARGELY FROM THE REPAYMENTS OF FINLAND'S WORLD WAR I DEBT.

-- FINLAND'S GENEROUS WILLINGNESS TO PLACE THIS EXCHANGES PROGRAM ON A PERPETUAL BASIS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRUST FUND IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE VALUE WHICH FINLAND ATTACHES TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES. WE SHARE THIS HIGH REGARD FOR THE PROGRAM AND ARE THEREFORE PLEASED TO CONCUR IN THE FINNISH PROPOSAL.

-- WE LOOK FORWARD IN THE YEARS TO COME TO CONTINUED INTERCHANGES OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PROFESSORS IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SUCH EXCHANGES CONTRIBUTE TO A RESERVOIR OF GOOD WILL AND UNDERSTANDING WHICH ARE NEEDED INGREDIENTS FOR A LASTING PEACE.

2. SALT.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE SALT PROCESS BEGAN IN HELSINKI
MATTILA WILL BE INTERESTED IN THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIA-
TIONS AND THE PROSPECTS FOR AN EARLY AGREEMENT.

TALKING POINTS.

-- THE US ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SALT AND CONSIDERS
THAT THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT BASED UPON
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THE PRINCIPLES AGREED AT VLADIVOSTOK WILL BE AN IMPORTANT
POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION NOT ONLY TO US-SOVIET RELATIONS
BUT TO PEACE AND SECURITY GENERALLY.

-- PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TOWARD THE CONCLUSION OF AN
AGREEMENT THIS YEAR.

2. ISSUES/TALKING POINTS SECTIONS 3 (MBFR), 4 (PORTUGAL),
5 (OECD AREA ECONOMIC SITUATION), 6 (ENERGY PRODUCER/
CONSUMER DIALOGUE, AND 7 (OIL PRICES) OF PRESIDENTIAL
BILATERAL PAPER (FORD-KISSINGER) SHOULD BE ADDED TO ABOVE.
INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE177733
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/NE:PFCANNEY:CB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750260-0624
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507107/baaaaqly.tel
Line Count: 243
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <14 JUL 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, FI, US, CSCE, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (MATTILA, OLAVI)
To: SECRETARY INFO HELSINKI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006